

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Response to Office Action Summary Application #: 10/067,647

Date: 10/06/2003

Applicant: Gary William Germano (707) 938-8850

Art Unit: 2836

ATTENTION: Examiner Roberto J. Rios

Dear Examiner Rios,

The following are four pages of response to Office Action Summary, plus 4 pages of copy of the original Office Action Summary. (9 pages total including this cover letter.)

Thank you very much for your phone interview and conversation on what to address in this response. Your help has been very much appreciated, as I had indicated this is my very first time applying for a patent. I have worked diligently at addressing your requirements. I kept in mind your excellent example of the television set with the new and unique power supply receiving its patent. Should you have any questions on any of my responses or need clarification on any detail, please call me. I am of course willing to make any changes to this response that are needed to make it acceptable, as my goal here is simply to obtain a patent for this device. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Gary Germano

Please confirm receipt of this fax.

Responses to Office Action Summary Application # 10/067,647

5 pages including leader sheet plus attachment copy of 4 pages of original Office Action Summary - 9 pages total.

Detailed Action Specification 1: Brief Description of the Views of the Drawings is confusing.

New Brief Descriptions of the Drawings:

FIG. 1 is an electrical schematic diagram of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a pictorial of the external physical characteristics of the invention.

Detailed Action Specification 3:

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claims are in narrative form and replete with indefinite and functional or operational language.

Claims 1 and 2 (canceled)

Revised Claims

3.(new) A small "remote control" switch housing console containing an electrical on-off switch and relay, incorporating a circuit means whereby when power is interrupted to said remote control switch/relay, said switch/relay will revert to a "closed" electrical position regardless of said switch/relay's position prior to said power interruption.

4.(new) The combination of a series and parallel wired combined electrical "piggyback" plug/socket assembly and a single lead three conductor power cable, said cable providing both operating power and load switching connection to "remote control" on-off switch and relay as described in claim 1, whereby when said electrical "piggyback" plug/socket assembly is inserted in series with an auxiliary switched electrical wall outlet and the electrical plug of a load, power interruption by said wall outlet's switch directs said remote control switch/relay circuit in claim 1 to a "closed" electrical position regardless of said remote switch/relay's position prior to said power interruption, thereby enabling said load plugged into said piggyback socket to always return to a powered position when power is restored by said wall outlet switch.

Note: Page 3 and 4 delineates the reasons my invention is different from and has unobvious characteristics using fewer parts over prior art. Pursuant to MPEP Section 707.07(j) , "Therefore it is submitted that patentable subject matter is clearly present. If the examiner does not feel that the present claim is technically adequate, applicant respectfully requests the examiner to write an acceptable claim(s) pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j)."

Detailed Action Specification 6: Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bennett (US patent 5,574,319)

Differences From Prior Art

The electrical relay and momentary contact switch assembly used in this invention is a "standard design" latching relay circuit. It is used in many electric products and electronic applications. In fact, **all of the following previously granted patents which were included in "notices of references cited": Bennett Patent # 5,574,319 (1996), as well as Platzer 3,514,626 (1970), Davidov 4,578,593 (1986), Clark 4,292,546 (1981), Platzer 3,872,319 (1975), and Platzer 3,418,488 (1968) have been individually patented using either the identical or almost identical latching relay / momentary contact switch system.**

Bennett patent #5,574,319 uses two individual cords, one cord terminated with a plug and one cord terminated with a socket.

The major differences, which make this device very unique, novel, and at the same time more desirable, lie in the single interconnecting cord and single piggyback plug/socket assembly.

Please note that **NONE** of the inventions above use a single piggyback plug/socket assembly nor a single three conductor cord for interconnection.

Additionally, most all piggyback plug/socket and cord assemblies currently made utilize a **two** conductor cord, and the cords are themselves wired **either in series** with the piggyback plug/socket to electrically control power to the socket, **or in parallel** with the piggyback plug /socket to tap power while the socket remains constantly on..

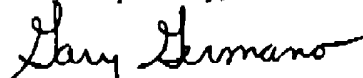
However, the piggyback plug/socket assembly utilized here is very unconventional. It has a uniquely different and very uncommon three conductor single jacketed cord which is electrically wired both in series and in parallel with the piggyback plug assembly. It is rarely used on any type of electrical device (as I have verified by trying to obtain such a cord from over 32 power cord manufacturers / distributors), and, at this point, will have to be custom made.

Unlike any of the prior art cited above, this three conductor single cord with a series and parallel wired piggyback plug system is an efficient way of providing **both** switchable power to an appliance and a source of power to the small portable switching console. It is safer, from a tripping standpoint, by utilizing a single cord. There is also far less chance that you will pull your lamp or other load device over or off of it's table, because the only cord on the portable small remote switch console unit terminates at the wall outlet, which is stationary. It is easier and less complicated to install, less cumbersome in terms of ease of relocating the remote switch's location (there is only one cord attached to the portable small remote switch console), and less confusing to use by the consumer than a unit having two separate cords. Additionally, the push button switches on the portable small remote switch console on this device are mounted on top of the unit. When you press them, you are pushing the unit down against the surface on which the console is sitting, and the console will not slide off. With switches mounted on the side, as on prior art cited (Bennett 5,574,319), pushing the buttons on the switches slides the switch housing unit right off the surface on which it is sitting.

Using fewer parts than any of the prior art cited above, the applicant has combined a standard latching relay circuit assembly and an unconventional series and parallel wired piggyback plug assembly with a single lead 3 conductor cord. In a non-obvious way, these parts form a uniquely designed portable appliance switching device unlike any of the prior art. Additionally, all of this device's characteristics do not exist in any single prior art cited. Unexpected results include it being safer, easier and less confusing to connect and install, more efficient in electrical design, and more portable as a remote unit.

For all of the reasons given above, applicant respectfully submits that the errors cited in the Brief Description and Views of the Drawings have been corrected, the claim re-written to distinctly point out novel structure and the subject matter to be claimed, that the claims define over prior art the unique and unobvious series and parallel wired piggyback plug/socket assembly with a single three conductor cord which creates a more electrically safe and significantly unique device than any of the prior art cited. Accordingly, the applicant submits that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action applicant respectfully solicits.

Very Respectfully,



Gary Germano
18850 Melvin Avenue
Sonoma, Ca. 95476
(707) 938-8850